ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A digital camera includes a memory to store image data of a captured image representing a scene in the physical world, and an encryption module configured to digitally sign the image data prior to storage using a private key of an asymmetric key pair and to obtain metadata associated with the image data. The digital camera is communicatively coupled to a digital photography subsystem. The host-based subsystem includes a decryption module to accept image data and metadata from the digital camera and to verify the digital signature of the image data to determine authenticity of the captured image represented by the image data using a public key of the asymmetric key pair, and a viewer module to display the image data when the decryption module indicates the image data is authentic. Metadata used in assisting a determination of authenticity may include at least one of date and time the image was captured by the digital camera, at least one of name and identifier of the camera owner, at least one of name and identifier of the photographer, focal distance, white levels, f-stop, brightness compensation, and distance for auto-focus, when the image was captured.